

Meeting Notes

Mapping & Assessment Subcommittee Governor's Forest Health Advisory and Oversight Councils (<http://www.governor.state.az.us/FHC/>)

**Tuesday, March 8, 2005, 9:30 a.m.
Tonto National Forest Supervisor's Office Conference Room
2324 E. McDowell Road, Phoenix, AZ**

Present:

Barron Orr, University of Arizona (M&A Subcommittee Co-Chair)
Gene Trobia, ASLD, State Cartographers Office
Ed Paul, Tonto National Forest
Karl Siderits, USDA Forest Service, Southwestern Region
Carolyn Williams, Tonto National Forest
Susan Gorman, Tonto National Forest
Marc Kaplan, Coronado National Forest
Glen Buettner, ASLD, State Cartographers Office
Cliff Pearlberg, ASLD, Forestry
Jeff Whitham, Yavapai County GIS
Don VanDriel, Tonto National Forest

Contributions via e-mail:

Jayson Coil, Sedona Fire District
Robb Beery, Payson Fire Department

Summary of Agenda:

1. Welcome and introductions, review minutes from last meeting.
2. Status report on Arizona FIRE MAP¹ – Phase 1. (Glen Buettner)
3. Status report on State Forester – SCO efforts to incorporate our grants-related mapping/data recommendations (Glen Buettner)
4. Status report on “rationale” document regarding long term institutional support for geospatial analysis and FH data management as part of the proposed State Forester agency (Gene Trobia)
5. Feedback on State Fire Assistance website pages for M&A and AZ FIRE MAP.
6. Other business.
7. Call to the public.
8. Next meeting.
9. Adjourn.

¹ “AZ FIRE MAP” stands for Arizona Fuels, Information, Restoration, and Education Mapping and Assessment Program. The prototype for a fuels treatments web application is being developed courtesy of funding from Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (through the State Forester, State Lands Department, and the State Cartographer’s Office).

CHAIR & CO-CHAIRS

Barron Orr – University of Arizona
Gene Trobia – Arizona State Land Department, State Cartographers Office
Don VanDriel – USDA Forest Service, Tonto National Forest
Jayson Coil – Sedona Fire District

Minutes:

1. Call to Order / Review Minutes

- a. Barron Orr called the meeting to order at 9:35 am
- b. Minutes from last meeting (February 8, 2005) were reviewed and accepted.

2. Status report on Arizona FIRE MAP – Phase 1. (Glen Buettner)

- a. Glen Beuttner reported on progress of Arizona FIRE MAP.
- b. Data collection template (an Excel file) issued to those who attended last M&A meeting. Feedback received and incorporated. This template is now being used by national forests. Letter encouraging data collection (from State Forester, Kirk Rowdabaugh) re-issued to forests.
 - i. Template File Name: **AFM - Data Entry Template - 05Feb15.xls**
 - ii. Data coming in from the Forests. Ed Paul is coordinating this effort in support of Glen Buettner. **Goal: March 15, 2005. ACTION ITEM**
 - 1. Cliff motioned that Ed Paul receive an award, particularly if he succeeds in encouraging the very busy people at each forest in submitting data by March 15.
 - iii. Glen will now go to other data providers with the template and letter.
- c. Data normalization process continues at SCO with some assistance from Aaryn Olsson, University of Arizona (who is the lead programmer on AZ FIRE MAP).
- d. Discussion on a) framework reference layers (e.g. roads) and b) contextual reference layers (e.g., CWPP boundaries)
 - i. Glen distributed a list of framework and contextual data layers from AZ FIRE MAP.
 - ii. Discussion on who currently might take responsibility for the contextual layers
 - 1. Fire Districts, DOR;
 - 2. Communities at Risk, annual State Forester lists, Glen has produced a digital map of these.
 - 3. CWPPs, Glen currently assembling these; plans to include only officially “signed off” plans
 - 4. Fuels Treatments *Project* Boundaries, SCO has decided to assemble and include these as a contextual layer
 - 5. Large Fire boundaries, no one entity currently assembling these across agencies.
 - a. Marc Kaplan reported that some Forest Service AZ and NM Forests received funding for FY 2004 and all Forests in FY 2005 received funding to digitize (generally polygons/regions; otherwise point will be digitized showing starting ignition point) fires as far back as records go for the specific National Forest land. Some Forests may also receive funding for FY 2006 if digitizing is not complete. Digitizing is supposed to be complete in FY 2005.
 - b. Chief of the Forest Service has allocated money to preserve fire records for historical purposes for all National Forests, not just AZ and NM. This may help discover additional fires for a. that were/are unknown at time of digitizing effort.
 - c. Discussion on best way to display fire perimeter data – conclusion: group into five year combinations (beyond this, overlapping fires make the data set messy)

- d. “Large” – Forest Service uses 100 acres or larger, but many in group felt that only the very large fires (> 10,000 or even 25,000 acres) should be included in AZ FIRE MAP Phase 1.
 - e. Jeff Whitham (and later many others) wanted to know how to ensure that “all” large fires would be captured in this contextual data layer.
 - f. Source of data – Marc reported that there is a national effort to map fire perimeters daily, but not clear if there is an effort to historically catalog perimeters.
 - g. Gene reported that in future, fire perimeters might be included as part of the Forest Stewardship “Spatial Analysis” project – risk assessment.
 - h. Position of many M&A members: if there is not an official, interagency data source for fire perimeters, they should not be included in AZ FIRE MAP Phase 1.
 - i. Position of other M&A members: requests for at least the major fires should be met, even in Phase 1.
- iii. Considerable discussion and concern raised that official process to collect or validate the contextual data layers
- iv. Many M&A felt that, for any contextual data layer, if not up to date, and if not regularly updated by some entity, AZ FIRE MAP should not display the data.
- v. Karl Siderits, and later Don VanDriel and others strongly emphasized the need to do a thorough job on Fuels Treatments and to expend little or no project energy and resources on other fire-related data.
- vi. **Conclusion: make sure recommendations to Forest Health Advisory Councils include mention of the need for a “data custodian” for forest health data layers, and need to determine who is going to maintain this application**
- e. AZ FIRE MAP Application Development proceeding on a tight schedule.
 - i. Data collection and normalization is ongoing.
 - ii. Applications development on schedule.
 - iii. Milestones
 - 1. Apr 8 (Fri, 9am) -- AZ FIRE MAP Functional Mock-up, Tucson (UA and SCO)
 - 2. Apr 29 (Fri, 10am)-- AZ FIRE MAP Core Lead Users Meeting, Phoenix, State Lands West End Conference Room (all)
 - 3. May 10 (Tues, 1pm) -- Unveil AZ FIRE MAP to Oversight Committee and M&A Committee, Phoenix, Tonto National Forest (all)
 - 4. May 12 (Thurs, TBA) – Demo at Forest Health Councils Meeting, Phoenix (all are welcome to attend – please be sure to advise Barron so that our numbers can be accounted for)
 - a. **ACTION: Barron Orr to advise Councils of the need for high speed internet connection for May 12 meeting.**
- f. Request received to simplify name of the project.
 - i. “AZ FIRE MAP” stands for Arizona Fuels, Information, Restoration, and Education Mapping and Assessment Program. However Phase 1 is entirely focused on Fuels.
 - ii. **Motion carried to keep the Arizona F.I.R.E. M.A.P. with a modules approach –**

1. Thus, Phase 1 will be the “Fuels Treatments” module, perhaps titled “Fuels Treatments Viewer”
- g. Options for funding for Phase II.
 - i. Gene Trobia reported that the funding source used last year to launch Phase 1 (through Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs) will not be available this year (due to floods).
 - ii. Gene proposed to bring funding concerns up with a) ESRI, and b) NASA / USGS.
 - iii. Cliff Pearlberg proposed investigating FEMA Homeland Security funding options, particularly considering public safety concerns.
 - iv. Discussion ensued on whether federal agencies might be willing to provide assistance – general feeling was that things are tight there too.
3. **Status of fire assistance grants / data recommendations (which would streamline the flow of data into a system such as AZ FIRE MAP from recipients of grants who are doing fuels treatments).**
 - a. Glen Beuttner reported that these have been put into final form and are being worked out by the State Forester (after having received guidance from the Councils). Mike Hart has final version of the grants text:
 - i. *Grant Recommendations - Draft.doc* M&A our suggestions to incorporate some M&A guidelines into the grants process
 - ii. *Data Specifications Recommendations Draft .doc* M&A suggestions on specific data associated with the grant recommendations.
4. **Discussion on need for sustained institutional support for mapping/data management for Arizona forest health**
 - a. Subcommittee reviewed a draft set of recommendations (ideas from many people, compiled by Gene Trobia and Glen Beuttner).
 - b. Strong feeling that longer term support in Arizona for fuels treatments mapping and attribute data must be identified
 - c. In order to meet the dynamic nature of Arizona forest health, a geospatial database and the infrastructure necessary to meet the demands of products and reports is necessary
 - d. Rationale for such support was discussed, and many, many items were raised, including:
 - i. How does the Subcommittee help the state and the FH Councils understand that right now maps/underlying contextual data of an inter-jurisdictional nature concerning forest health parameters are not specifically the responsibility of any one group and there needs to be a larger commitment to getting better data.
 - ii. Fuels treatments data (across jurisdictions) – AZ FIRE MAP “Fuels Treatments” module is a great concept, and should be continued into the future after the prototype is tested.
 - iii. Jayson Coil (via e-mail) voiced the idea of emphasizing public safety and bringing on board the Arizona Department of Administration Information Services Division “9-1-1 Program” (<http://www.911.state.az.us/>).
 1. Their GIS Coordinator is Adam Iten. In November, he produced a document entitled “State of Arizona 9-1-1 GIS Standards”.
 - iv. Eventual mapping of fire risk
 - v. Management of CWPP data (planned treatments which are not necessarily part of any data set yet)

- vi. Eventual goal of community and homeowner level data (e.g., Firewise Recognition planning)
- vii. **MOTION carried that we a) fine tune the recommendations with suggestions from meeting, and b) that we request support from the FH Councils and endorse funding / long term institutional support for the geospatial analysis and data management portion of the State Forester division budget (or whatever mechanism FH Council and the State Forester view as most appropriate).**

5. Other Business

- i. Cliff Pearlberg and Glen Beuttner opened discussion on the State Fire Assistance Website where both the M&A and AZ FIRE MAP are concerned. This currently is at: <http://www.azstatefire.org/Assess/Assess.htm> -- which is managed by Cliff.
 - ii. Glen proposed a "skinny" version of website (he shared specific text with group), with links to more detailed information. Documents would continue to be stored as .pdf files on Governor's Forest Health Councils website (<http://www.governor.state.az.us/FHC/Subcommittee.html>) with a link in from Cliff's website.
- b. Motion carried.**
- c. Glen Beuttner announced open invitations to all M&A members to the Governor's Forest Health Conference on March 22 (registration: <http://www.governor.state.az.us/fhc/Registration.asp>)
 - i. Glen and Gene will attend.
 - ii. They are going to put up a display of CWPPs, and participate in a breakout on CWPPs.
 - d. Karl Siderits: met with BLM and NRCS and Fish and Wildlife Service, working with key staff people, and many are not aware of M&A.
 - i. M&A members emphasized that the subcommittee is open to all interested.
 - ii. ACTION Item: Karl will let these groups know and will provide contact information.
 - e. Jeff Whitham: noted there is some confusion in the public realm about the differences between CWPP (plan, bigger area, more than mitigation – suppression, evacuation etc.) and Firewise Communities (program, community level – often 500 homes or less, mitigation only, not suppression, though sometimes some evacuation)

6. Next Meeting

- a. May 10, 2005 (Tues, 1pm) -- Unveil AZ FIRE MAP to AZ FIRE MAP Oversight Committee and M&A Committee, Phoenix, Tonto National Forest (all on M&A list are invited to attend – please advise Barron Orr <barron@ag.arizona.edu> and Don VanDriel <dvandriel@fs.fed.us> to ensure adequate space)
- b. May 12, 2005 (Thurs, location TBA) – Demo of AZ FIRE MAP at Forest Health Councils Meeting, (all are welcome to attend – please be sure to advise Barron Orr <barron@ag.arizona.edu> and Heather Garbarino <heatherg@azcommerce.com> so that our numbers can be accounted for)

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